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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Bulgarian National Committee members living in Belgrade report increasingly better treatment by the Yugoslav authorities, particularly since March and April. Previously, Bulgarian refugees in Yugoslavia who were not adherents of the National Committee have been arrested and interned. They were then given orientation lectures and urged to remain in Yugoslavia in order to collaborate with the authorities for the liberation of Bulgaria.

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Freedom was promised only to those agreeing to allow their activities to be directed by the Yugoslav-sponsored Bulgarian Refugee Committee.

2. The reason for this change is attributed to a realization by the Yugoslav authorities that the majority of the incoming Bulgarian refugees are Agrarians and supporters of Dimitrov. It is reported that in the first two weeks of April between 50 and 60 National Committee members arrived in Belgrade. This fact, coupled with the relative failure of the Yugoslav-sponsored Bulgarian Refugee Committee to obtain important backing among the refugees, has allegedly caused the re-consideration of Yugoslav policy toward the Refugee Committee. In early April this Committee was re-organized and Tsenko Bogdanov* became president replacing Dimitar Mihailkov. It has also been reported that refugees living in Caribrod were transferred to Belgrade at approximately the same time. Most of these were adherents of the Dimitrov National Committee, and this transfer has been credited to Mihailkov and Bogdanov. These reports state that the Yugoslavs are now interested in winning the support of the National Committee, even, if necessary, at the expense of the Refugee Committee.

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Comment: Tsenko Bogdanov is a lawyer and ex-commander of the Bulgarian work brigade, Brotherhood and Unity. He is also reported to be the principal announcer of Radio Belgrade for broadcasts in Bulgarian.

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